GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2163
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
THREAT TO MARINE LIFE
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have received any complaints regarding severe destruction of marine life due to oil leakage / slick in the coastal areas of the National Marine Park in Jamnagar district of Gujarat since January 1, 1997 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss caused to wildlife;

(d) the persons held responsible for the leakage of oil alongwith the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent spillage / leakage of oil in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) From January 1997 till date, six incidents of oil leakage have been recorded due to accidents such as failure of submerged pipeline between Single Point Mooring Buoy & Shore, a ship catching fire on the high sea, oil leakage from ship breaking yard, etc.

(c) The leakage, which took place on 23.11.1999 at Narara island, caused the death of two Dolphins and one sea Turtle. In the other cases, no damage to marine life has been reported.

(d) Offences have been registered against Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Ritu Shipping Company Limited and Gujarat ImEx Limited An amount of Rs. 3,000/- has also been recovered from Ritu Shipping Company Limited.

(e) Government has stipulated stringent conditions and environmental safeguards while granting clearance to setting up of the Refinery and associated facilities under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 including monitoring of marine water quality, green belt development, mangrove afforestation and oil spill contingency and disaster management plans. Regular water quality monitoring is being undertaken by Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Pollution Control Board. An integrated `Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan` for the Gulf of Kachchh is under preparation by the Government of Gujarat in consultation with the Coast Guard.